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being out of the castes of the Middle Age, to endow him with individuality, and summoned man to stand forth as man. The world heaved with the fervent conflict of opinion. The people and their guides recognized the dignity of labor; the oppressed peasantry took up arms for liberty; men reverenced and exercised the freedom of the soul. The breath of the new spirit moved over the earth; it revived Poland, animated Germany, swayed the North; and the inquisition of Spain could not silence its whispers among the mountains of the Peninsula. It invaded France; and though bonfires, by way of warning, were made of heretics, at the gates of Paris, it infused itself into the French mind, and led to unwonted free discussions. Exile could not quench it. On the banks of the Lake of Geneva, Calvin stood forth the boldest reformer of his day; not personally engaging in political intrigues, yet, by promulgating great ideas, forming the seedplot of revolution; bowing only to the Invisible; acknowledging no sacrament of ordination but the choice of the laity, no patent of nobility but that of the elect of God, with its seals of eternity."

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2. — 1. *Annual Report of the Progress of Chemistry and the Allied Sciences, Physics, Mineralogy, and Geology; including the Applications of Chemistry to Pharmacy, Medicine, Agriculture, the Arts, and Manufactures.* By Justus Liebig, M. D., and H. Kopp, with the Coöperation of Buff, Dieffenbach, and Others, Professors in the University of Giessen. Edited by A. W. Hoffman, Ph. D., and W. De la Rue. London: Taylor, Walton, & Maberly. 2 vols. 8vo.

2. *Annual of Scientific Discovery, or Year-Book of Facts in Science and Art, for* 1852*; exhibiting the most Important Discoveries and Improvements in Mechanics, Useful Arts, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, &c.* Edited by David A. Wells, A. M. Boston: Gould & Lincoln. 1852. 12mo. pp. 408.

3. *Examinations of Drugs, Medicines, Chemicals, &c., as to their Purity and Adulterations.* By C. H. Peirce, M. D., Examiner of Medicines, etc., for the Port of Boston. Cambridge: John Bartlett. 1852. 12mo. pp. 264.

These reports of the development and application of chemistry and the allied sciences are a striking indication of the present popularity of scientific pursuits, of the number of laborers who are engaged in them, and of the zeal and success with which their researches are conducted. Already the first obstacle which is encountered by one who enters the path of original investigation, is the difficulty of ascertaining the latest results of the efforts of those who have immediately preceded him in the work, both in Europe and America. The literature of science has expanded so rapidly, and the number of scientific journals has so much increased, that the student who should undertake to read the whole would have little leisure remaining for the prosecution of his independent labors. To obviate this difficulty, these summary reports are prepared, like the digests which the lawyers are compelled to make of the interminable series of publications which contain the results of the proceedings of the courts. These digests contain all that is needed for use on ordinary occasions; and if at times they are found incomplete, they furnish references to more copious sources of information. Yet if the process of development and multiplication should continue many years longer, with equal rapidity, a new means of saving labor in this department must be invented, or " the embarrassment of riches " will be likely to dishearten the laborers and cause the work to be suspended altogether. If calculations respecting the progress of science were instituted, similar to those which Malthus formed of the increase of the human species, it might appear that an application of " the preventive check " was equally necessary in both cases.

The first work upon our list, as might be expected from its large compass and the eminent names which appear upon its title-page, " aims at completeness, principally in the communication of *results; descriptions*, however, of the *methods* by means of which these results have been obtained will be by no means omitted," when the methods themselves are new, or when a knowledge of them is necessary for a full comprehension of the subject. The work is evidently prepared with great care and labor; and though its bulk and the technicality of its details will seal the volumes for general readers, they will be invaluable to the practical chemist, and highly useful to laborers in other departments of science. The publishers have done their part admirably well; the neatness and accuracy of the typography are highly creditable to them, as the number and complexity of the formulæ which are introduced must have severely exercised the taste and skill of the printer. The appendix contains a very useful series of tables, minute and seemingly accurate, for the comparison of the different systems of thermometers and other measures, and the explanation of the various symbols and equivalents which are adopted in the work.

We noticed, on a former occasion, an earlier volume of the Annual of Scientific Discovery, which is edited by Mr. Wells.

It is less elaborate and more popular than the formidable volumes of Liebig and Kopp, as it is intended not only for the special students of science, but for the far larger circle of readers who wish to know something of the daily progress, the general results, and more striking applications of scientific research, though they have not leisure or inclination to study them in detail. This Annual is admirably designed to satisfy their wants. It is a chronicle of what is attempted, as well as of what is actually performed, in the field both of discovery and invention. Many of the new processes that it records — and their name is legion — would probably fail to stand the test of farther investigation and experiment. But for a people among whom inventive genius abounds, — and the Yankees are unparalleled in this respect among all the nations of the earth, both past and present, — a full account of incomplete discoveries and abortive inventions is highly useful. It points out what is desirable to be accomplished, and erects beacons to warn the inquirer away from paths that lead in a wrong direction. And it may often suggest a solution of the difficulty which it does not directly indicate. The present volume seems quite equal to those which have gone before it in the amount of matter, in the skill with which it is arranged, and in the general fidelity with which the editor's task has been performed.

The last work on our list is very humble in its pretensions, but is, perhaps, of greater practical utility than either of the others. We have ranked it with them, because it shows so clearly that many of the curious results of chemical analysis, which may appear at first sight too refined and far-fetched to be of any advantage beyond the gratification of a liberal curiosity, are often found applicable, in some unexpected manner, to purposes of the most direct and palpable utility. Sick persons have been half-poisoned by the drugs which they have swallowed, or the medicines, at best, have failed to produce the expected effect, and all the blame has been laid upon the doctor, or upon the imperfection of medical science, when frequently the greater part of it was chargeable to the apothecary. The importation of adulterated and spurious drugs had become a great branch of traffic with those who did not set any high value upon the lives of their fellow-beings, or did not desire their speedy recovery from illness. Congress was at length induced, for a wonder, to pass *one* useful act of general legislation that had no connection with party politics, by requiring all drugs, medicines, and chemicals that were entered at the custom-house to be carefully tested by examiners appointed for the purpose, before they were allowed to be sold; and if they are found to be spurious or adulterated, they are immediately destroyed. Dr. Peirce, a distinguished graduate of the chemical department of the Scientific School attached to Harvard College, was appointed examiner of medicines for the port of Boston; and in this little volume, he has given a "practical, simple, and concise" account of the methods and tests which he has applied in the discharge of his functions. Some of these are found to depend upon the latest refinements of chemical analysis; while others are so simple and sure that they can be used even in the sick chamber. There is no parade of chemical science in the work, which is designed only to be a manual or hand-book; and this absence of pretension is one of the surest tests by which reviewers are enabled to recognize the competency of authors and the merits either of literary or scientific productions. The book is neatly printed; and as it enables one to detect adulteration or impurity in some articles of food and substances used for domestic purposes, it may deserve a place by the side of those excellent manuals of culinary science which are found in every well-regulated household.

3. — *The Aias of Sophocles, with Critical and Explanatory Notes.* By J. B. M. Gray. Cambridge: John Bartlett. 1851. 12mo. pp. 342.

For the last fifteen or twenty years, the study of the Attic Tragedy has formed a prominent object of classical education in the United States. Some of the most useful editions, in this department of letters, have been published by American scholars. The four plays edited by President Woolsey are the most conspicuous contribution to this species of literature, which has yet been made in this country. Mr. Gray's edition of the Aias of Sophocles is a learned and valuable addition to the list. This play, though not the most excellent specimen of the dramatic art of Sophocles, is, nevertheless, to the modern student at least, one of the most interesting remaining from the ancient stage. It is less remote from common human sympathies, than the great Œdipodion Trilogy. The passions, and affections, and sorrows of common life form a larger ingredient in the materials out of which its interests are woven, than is usual with the stately and regal arguments on which the Athenian dramatists loved to dwell. The overbearing pride of Ajax is the natural source of his disasters, though the tale is clothed in the form of special divine